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No. 1 VOL. I 第一號 日八十月九年九十二緒光

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1903

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• OLYMPIA	2,837	A. Dixon	Wednesday, November 25th
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• VICTORIA	3,502	J. Truebridge	Saturday, December 19th
TREMONT	9,606	T. W. Garlick	Thursday, December 24th
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LOCAL NEWS UP TO SATURDAY

NIGHT. SATURDAY'S SPORTING

EVENTS ALWAYS GIVEN

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

Buddhist India.

Dr. Rhys Davids has written the latest volume of "The Story of the Nations" series, under the title of "Buddhist India." The author does not attempt to describe the teachings of Buddha. His scheme has been to depict the people and surroundings in the parts of India where Buddhism was the chief religious creed. The book should be well received, for a volume that deals with the people of a religious community that consists of nearly one-fifth of the human race is certainly necessary.

Dr. Davids discourses in a pleasant manner on the various tribes and clans that were predominant just after the time of Buddha. In the majority of cases the hamlets were a collection of miniature republics. Happiness was the chief characteristic of their inhabitants; to quote the quaint words of an old Suttanta, "Pleased one with another and happy, dancing their children in their hands, dwelt with open doors."

The author speaks of the hot-air baths as described in full in the Vinaya texts. These baths were in the towns and the houses of the rich.

"They were built on an elevated basement, faced with brick or stone, with stone stairs up to it, and a railing round the verandah. The roofs and walls were of wood, covered first with skins and then with plaster, the lower part only of the wall being tiled with bricks. There was an antechamber, and a hot room, and a pool to bathe in. Seats were arranged round a fireplace, in the middle of the hot room, and to induce perspiration hot water was poured over the bathers, whose faces were covered with scented chunam (fine chalk). After the bath there was shampooing, and then a plunge into the pool."

It must be remembered that this is a description of a bath in the Ganges valley in the sixth century B.C., and it is curious to find a form of "bathing so closely resembling our modern so-called Turkish Baths. Did the Turks derive this custom from India?"

There are several chapters on the "Beginnings of Writing" and on "Language and Literature." At the time of Buddha—

"Literature of all kinds laboured under a curious disability. There were, for a long time, no writing materials—that is, none that could be used for the production and reproduction of books. And the Indians not only did not feel the want of them, but even continued, for centuries after materials had become available, to prefer, so far as books are concerned, to do without them. The state of things thus disclosed is unique in the history of the world."

The practice adopted was the handing down of the great works of the period by memory alone. This is proved by the exhaustive search for early manuscripts of any kind. And in every case the search has been useless. What is more, nowhere do we find the least trace of any reference to books or manuscripts.

This is decisive. As Dr. Davids says: "It is one of those rare cases where negative evidence is good evidence." At the same time, writing was practised for ordinary things: such as letters, the issuing of orders, business, &c. As the Vinaya texts quaintly put it: "If a lad should adopt the profession of a writer, he will dwell at ease and in comfort; but then, on the other hand, his fingers will ache." The modern man is quite in agreement with the latter part of the text, but he has his doubts of the former as applied to the present day.

The volume closes with a brief history of Asoka, an Indian prince, who reigned in India after the curtain of silence had been lifted in that portion of the world some three centuries after Buddha's death.

Asoka the King.

Asoka was one of the most extraordinary men of his time. He came to the throne over 2,000 years ago. The early portion of his reign was devoted to destroying his enemies.

"Buddhist India," by Dr. Rhys Davids. Messrs. Fisher Unwin London.

and it must be admitted that he succeeded. Then he strenuously devoted himself to the higher life and to the welfare of his subjects.

"It is strange for a king, whether in India or Europe, to do such a thing as this. And doubly strange that, in doing so, he should select a system of belief where salvation, independent of any belief in a soul, lay in self-conquest. No ordinary man would have so behaved; and the result must have been due mainly to his own character, his firmness of purpose, his strong individuality."

After a time, he began to issue edicts. These were rough hewn all of them. Cut deep into the rocks and stones of the temples, they are still to be seen by those who have the inclination. The most famous of his edicts is the one known as the Dhamma for laymen. It is remarkable for its tremendous simplicity, especially when we remember its date and that it came from the Orient, where decorativeness was one of the chief features of the language. The following are some of its commands:

The Edicts.

"Docility to parents is good.
"Liberality to friends, acquaintances and relatives, and to Brahmins and recluses is good.
"Self-mastery, purity of heart, gratitude, fidelity, are always possible and excellent, even for the man who is too poor to be able to give largely."

"Tolerance. Honour should be paid to all, laymen and recluses alike, belonging to other sects. No one should disparage other sects to exalt his own. Self-restraint in words is the right thing. And let a man seek rather after the growth in his own soul of the essence of the matter."

"Man sees but his good deeds, saying: 'This good act have I done.' Man sees not at all his evil deeds, saying: 'That bad act have I done, that act is corruption.' Such self-examination is hard. Yet must a man watch over himself, saying: 'Such and such acts lead to corruption—such as brutality, cruelty, anger and pride. I will zealously see to it that I slander not out of envy. That will be to my advantage in this world, to my advantage, verily, in the world to come.'"

That is all. It will be seen that there is not a single word about God, or the soul, or of Buddha. The serious that he had brought his subjects into the condition of believing and obeying, this daring man hurled forth his edicts with the cold severity and assurance of an imperial autocrat.

For some time he was obeyed. Then his edicts grew stronger; his range of vision, wider; his assurance, arrogance. The people commenced to disobey and protest. Or else, they accepted with a shrug, suggestive that a certain allowance must be made for the self-clampency of kings.

In the end he failed. To please him, sycophants sprung up about his throne. The opinions he insisted upon were enfeebled and corrupted by his favour. And when he died his empire was in such a condition that it soon split up and dissolved. He had begun to believe that he possessed a power that was divine.

That his opinions and commands must of a necessity be obeyed. That he was the "deus ex machina," who could put all things and all men straight.

The Fall of Asoka the King.

And so the Great Gods broke him on their wheel. For his empire crumbled, his teachings became forgotten; his edicts were swept away into comparative oblivion.

Dr. Rhys Davids compares this striking personality to the great figure of Oliver Cromwell. The comparison is a fair one. For there is the same single-mindedness of purpose; the strenuous desire to be looked upon as the Father of his people; the same ruggedness of manner, uncountness of speech, and language full of repetitions. To quote the gospel he preached was as applicable to the India of that day as it would be to India now. That he was wanting in the most efficient sort of practical statesmanship seems to have been chiefly due to the glamour of a majesty that was indeed so very splendid that it was great enough to blind the eyes of men. The culture of a Marcus Aurelius or an Akbar might have saved him from this. But even as it was, it is among European rulers, with Marcus Aurelius for some things, with Cromwell for others, that he deserves to be compared. Had Asoka been greater than he was he would not have attempted the impossible. We should have had no edicts. And we should probably know little of the personality of the most remarkable and the most imposing figure among the native princes of India.

SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The President of the Board, the Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer, presided. The other members present were: The Vice-President, the Hon. W. Chatham, Director of Public Works, the Hon. H. C. Pollock, K.C., Dr. W. W. Pearce, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. E. A. Hewitt, Dr. B. T. T. Barnett, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Captain F. W. Lyons, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, Secretary.

A QUESTION OF IMPORTANCE.

Mr. E. A. Hewitt announced that he had only received his agenda that same morning, and asked if it could be delivered earlier to members. Referring to Clause No. 5, in the confidential circular sent out with the agenda, Mr. Hewitt asked: "Why should it be dealt with confidentially?" There was no doubt that at times there were matters that should be dealt with in this way, but he could not see that there was anything in this particular clause which should be dealt with in this manner. He referred to this subject some months ago, and there was a large question involved affecting property owners.

The Secretary said the letter referred to in Clause 5 was only received on the 20th of October, and it might be necessary to obtain the opinion of the Law Officer of the Crown on it.

Mr. Hewitt replied that the last letter he saw was of the 18th of August. There was a letter from Messrs. Jardine and Co. on the 18th and another on the 18th. He had seen these, but not the one of the 30th.

The President: The letter of the 30th of October was partly dealing with the same matter, and I thought it would be much wiser to consider it, with the other letters, confidentially. We might also obtain the opinion of the Crown solicitors in the matter.

Mr. Hewitt: But I have no knowledge of the letter you refer to.

The Secretary: There has not been time to circulate it.

Mr. Hewitt: I received my papers on Tuesday, and have received nothing since.

Mr. Woodcock: The letter was received since your papers were sent you.

Mr. Hewitt: I suggest that this question, being of very great importance, should be dealt with in open meeting; but as there seems to be some further correspondence I will waive the matter for the moment. I think it is necessary and important that the question should be dealt with in open Board, and the correspondence read referring to the matter.

A RUBBLE WELL.

The first business on the agenda was the consideration of correspondence relative to the well at 19, Caine Road. It appeared that an application had been made by Mr. B. Brotherton Harker, on behalf of Mr. Li Wai Po, for the water in the well at 19, Caine Road, to be analysed. If it was found fit for domestic purposes, he asked that permission be given to Mr. Li Wai Po to use it.

The President: This is a rubble well. Even if the water is analysed and found fit, I think the Board should refuse permission unless the well be cemented right down to the bottom of its sides, the top covered in, and the water drawn up only by means of a pump.

Mr. E. A. Hewitt: I think all wells of this description should be closed.

On the motion of the President, the application was refused.

OPEN SPACES.

Application was made for exemption from the provision of open spaces for Nos. 127 and 141, Hollywood Road.

The Director of Public Works reported: "I see that the scavenging lane is shown to be only 3ft. in width, and it would be impossible to widen in future by taking 3ft. from the adjacent houses, as they are on a much lower level. I think exemption might be recommended on condition that the lane is made 6ft. wide, and that no compensation is to be paid in respect to it."

Dr. Barnett intimated: "I think exemption from provision of an open space might be granted in this case so long as the window in the area is not cut off from the main room so as to form a lobby."

In a letter to the Board Mr. E. M. Hazeldine, on behalf of the

owner, pointed out that in consequence of their situation the houses would always enjoy unobstructed open space of an unlimited area in the rear, as the houses in Circular Pathway cannot be increased in height under Ordinance of 1903. The depth of the houses varied from 33ft. to 27ft. 6in. Each house would be well lighted and ventilated, as the fronts were practically open on the upper floors facing Hollywood Road. The windows were each 3ft. 6in. by 7ft. Exemption from the provision of yard space was granted to the owner of Nos. 127 and 141 by the Sanitary Board in M. Y. 1902, in respect of existing houses in Hollywood Road.

Dr. Barnett reported, further, that at the area of the houses for which application for exemption was made, there was a retaining wall on which the area wall would stand. This retaining wall had been patched considerably, and was somewhat bulged in places. He thought the Public Works Department should have their attention called to the condition of the retaining wall, so that they might consider, if they had not done so already, as to whether it was capable of supporting the enormous weight of the proposed area wall.

The President moved that the exemptions be granted subject to the conditions stipulated by the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Rumjahn rose and said he wished to draw the attention of the Board to certain irregular acts of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health in this matter. He moved that the Standing Orders be set aside to enable him to make his remarks on the subject.

The President: I think it is necessary to give notice of motion, so as to allow the officer to make any explanation he may think necessary.

Mr. Rumjahn: Certain remarks made by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health will, if published, depreciate the value of this property. Dr. Barnett has represented by his statements that he is an engineer, and I beg to say that he is not.

The President: I must call you to order. You should have given notice of motion to suspend the Standing Orders.

Mr. Hewitt: I will second Mr. Rumjahn's proposition that the Standing Orders be set aside, so as to enable him to make his statement at this meeting.

The motion was put and carried, and the Standing Orders suspended. The Board then sat in camera. On the open meeting being resumed, the President's resolution to grant the exemptions was put and carried.

AN OPIUM DIVAN.

The Board considered the correspondence relative to the opium divan at No. 7, Upper Lascar Row. The Assistant Medical Officer of Health reported that No. 7, Upper Lascar Row, had no concrete floor, and could, therefore, not be licensed de novo, although the premises were otherwise satisfactory.

Mr. Pak Kan Shang wrote: "If I take the tiles off the floor and lay down 3ins. of cement concrete rendered impervious, will the Board recommend that the premises will then be fit to be registered as an opium divan?"

Dr. Barnett, in reply, reported: "I think 3ins. of cement on the top of the present cement and tiles—half the floor is tiled and half cemented—would do very well, but there are several things in this matter which I am unable to decide."

(1) Would it not be creating a dangerous precedent to allow a licence with only 3in. of cement?

(2) Would the floor stand the extra 3in. of concrete. I think not; altogether, this would be about 4 1/2 in. in thickness.

(3) If the floor is to be relaid, would 3in. cost much less than 6in.; I think not.

I am of the opinion that the Board have no legal right to agree to the licence being granted when there are only 3in. of cement on the floor, unless the bye-laws are altered.

The President moved that as the bye-laws provided that 6in. of cement should be laid for these floors, the condition should be insisted on in this case.—Carried.

LICENCE.

An Shun Fong applied for a licence to sell pork at No. 187, Hollywood Road.

APPLICATIONS.

Mr. A. Gibson, Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, reported that the shop did not comply with the bye-laws governing the sale of food. The shop was used as a miscellaneous

store, and he did not recommend that the application be granted.

On the motion of the President, this application was refused.

Shin Kee applied for the renewal of the licence to sell fruit at the entrance to the Ko Shing Theatre. The licence was in the name of Ho Ngok Lou, and he wished it transferred to himself.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon had no objection to the application. The shop was at the entrance to the theatre, and was used by theatre-goers.

The President moved, and Mr. Fung Wa Chun seconded, that the licence be granted.—This was carried.

Lau Lam applied for the renewal of the fruit licence for No. 117, Queen's Road West.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon did not recommend that the application be granted. The premises did not comply with the conditions of the licence for the sale of food. It was used for the sale of tobacco, mineral waters, matches, &c.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Hewitt, who asked that Rule 6 be insisted on in each case, the application was refused.

Lak Ping Kee made an application for the renewal of the licence to sell fruit at 77, Queen's Road West.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon and the Acting Medical Officer of Health both recommended the refusal of the application.

Mr. H. E. Pollock intimated: On what grounds is the refusal of this application recommended?

The Acting Registrar-General: I think the licence should be continued, as the man has carried on this business for seven years.

The Colonial Veterinary Surgeon: This shop is at the entrance to a lane in Queen's Road West and is used as a barber's shop, &c.

Dr. Barnett: I agree with the C.V.S.

Rule 6 not being complied with, the licence was refused.

Young Tsung, of 236, Queen's Road West, applied for a licence to sell vegetables at 263, Queen's Road West.

The C.V.S. and Assistant M.O.H. both recommended the refusal of the application.

Licence refused, on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. Hewitt.

A similar application was made by Lam In, of 236, Queen's Road, for a licence for 263, Queen's Road.

The C.V.S. reported that this shop was at the entrance to Tsimshien Street. It did not comply with the conditions required.

Refused.

A third application to sell vegetables was also heard. This was for No. 8, Connaught Road West. After an examination, the C.V.S. and Assistant M.O.H. raised an objection to the granting of the licence.

The President proposed, and Mr. Pollock seconded, a motion to grant the licence.—This was accepted.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The reports of the analysis of the public water supplies for the month of October were very satisfactory. At Kowloon, Tsimshien, Pokfulam, and Cheung Sha Wan, the water was found to be of excellent quality.

THE RAT RETURNS.

The rat return for the fortnight ended November 2 showed that of 676 rats caught in the city of Victoria, nineteen were infected. At Kowloon 157 were captured, nine being infected.

The report with reference to lime-washing was satisfactory, and the Board rose, their deliberations lasting half-an-hour.

CLERKS IN MANILA.

The "Manila Cablenews" of October 31 prints an article which points out that there is now a great difficulty in inducing clerks to come out from Washington to Manila. The salaries in Manila are much larger, men getting \$1,600 in Manila who received only \$1,000 at home. The War Department at Washington says the article is very untrue, and may have to increase salaries in order to retain the present force.

At a recent meeting of the Filipino Bar Senor Sumulong urged the necessity of some provision in the Code against puljanetas and similar associations which exist in great numbers throughout the Islands.

The speaker said that these associations of individuals are on the increase, that their main purpose is polygamy and that they take advantage of every disturbance in the country to profit by it.

The only provision of the old Code which, in the mind of Senor Sumulong touches the matter, is the provision against those organizations contrary to public morals.



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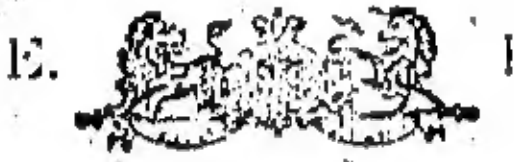
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SANITARY BOARD.

HOUSEHOLDERS are hereby REQUESTED to Make a Special Effort during the Winter Months to DESTROY RATS, and to Fill up Rat Holes with Cement. Rat Traps and Bird Lime may be obtained from the Secretary to the Board Free of Cost.

By order,

G. A. WOODCOCK,

Sanitary Board Room, 26th October, 1903.

NOTICE.

WE have this day authorised Messrs. E. O. R. VOLLBRECHT and G. G. C. STOCKHAUSEN to sign our firm pro curatione. F. BLACKHEAD & Co. Hongkong, 31st October, 1903.

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST AND RESPONSIBILITY of Dr. J. H. SWAN in assisting me in my practice ceased from the 31st October. The practice will be carried on by Dr. GIBSON and myself. G. P. JORDAN. Hongkong, 1st November, 1903.

THEATRE ROYAL, CITY HALL.

THE HONGKONG AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB Will give Performances of LORD AND LADY ALGY on SATURDAY, 14th NOVEMBER, 1903 MONDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 1903 TUESDAY, 17th Commencing each Evening at 9 P.M. precisely.

Dress Circle \$3. Stalls 3. Pit 1. No Half Price.

Tickets can be obtained at the Booking Office of the Theatre, City Hall, on and after Thursday, 5th November, at 10 A.M. Booking Office will be opened daily from that date from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. except on King's Birthday. Late Trains will run a quarter of an hour after the fall of the curtain.

This Paper is Set on the Linotype Composing Machine.

The Morning Post.

Tel. Address: "Postscript, Hongkong." A.B.C. Code, 5th Ed. All Business Communications should be addressed to the General Manager. Subscription to the "South China Morning Post," 5s per Month. Subscription to the "South China Weekly Post," 15s per Annum. Hongkong Office: 15, 16, 17, Connaught Road Central. London Office: 110, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1903.

Newspapers are awaking to the fact that there is no immediate prospect of war between Russia and Japan. No sane man ever thought there was. War is no small matter to be lightly entered upon. As a political argument it is futile. It is the most ancient, the most crude, the most barbaric means of settling a dispute known to man. True, it has been refined to an affection. Civilised warfare has degenerated to the level of a game. It has become hedged about with rules, and the combatant who infringes these is tabooed as he would be on the polo ground or on the football field. War, to effect anything, must be real, must be earnest. Such would be a war waged between Russia and Japan. Consequently, it would be far removed from the timid imagin-

tions of Fleet Street leader-writers fed on the Geneva Convention, nurtured on the Hague Conference. It would be a war to the death. There would be no white flags, no cunning armistices, no courteous exchanges of medicine and messages of condolence. There would be no squeamish abstinence from the destruction of the enemy's property, no long lines of prisoners to bring a blush to the cheek of the third and fourth generation, no fat compensation for damage done in the campaign. It would be real war. Nations, like men, are chary of waging their lives upon a policy. And it is a policy that is at stake in Northern China.

Men who write leaders have presumed that Japan was preparing to go to war with Russia to vindicate a principle. The London Times has said, "Despite the presence of circumstances calculated to inflame the patriotic and warlike spirit to the utmost, Japan has preserved an admirable calm, conscious of the increased power and prestige afforded her by her alliance with Great Britain. She has confronted her great rival with patience and self-possession, and she will assuredly exhaust no possibility of safeguarding her reasonable claims by peaceful means." Time was, when the "Times" was owned and edited by Britons, it might affect to speak of the "power and prestige" of Great Britain. The "Times" no longer voices the sentiment of Great Britain. Its word to-day is the word of the "Times." Simply that, and nothing more.

The fact is that neither Russia nor Japan is agitating for principle. Each nation is bent upon self-aggrandisement. In this they are in keeping with the spirit of a commercial age. Selfishness is the ruling passion with nations as with individuals. Four Episcopalian bishops recently wrote a joint letter to the "Times" denouncing the condition of affairs in Macedonia as a disgrace to civilisation, and calling upon Great Britain to interfere in the interests of humanity. Not Great Britain, or Germany, or Austria, or France, or the United States of America, or Russia, or Japan has felt called upon to answer that appeal for the vindication of a principle. Men and women have been slaughtered wholesale in the districts of Macedonia, women and children have been wounded by the Turkish soldiery; teachers have been pent up for months in fetid cellars, but no civilised nation has intervened to stay the hand of the butcher. When hope was dead in the hearts of the wretched people winter came, and in its still, small voice was the only comfort they had heard for months. Nature has shown a quicker and a surer sympathy with her suffering children than any nation in the four quarters of the globe. As it is in the Near East, so it is in the Far. Principle is the empty catchword of diplomacy. Self-aggrandisement is the very inspiration of practical politics. War is a two-edged tool, disliked of the selfish nation. Neither Russia nor Japan has aught of desire to use it. Each will gain her end without recourse to it. Meanwhile, the newspapers fluster and fret over the elucidations of the cables; the competing nations puff themselves out with self-glorification; and poor, sick, moribund China pays for all. It is a grim comedy—but it is a comedy.

Bad things are always dear, but few bad things are so dear as the gas in Hongkong. The young man said in his heart, "There is no statesman!" Mr. Winston Churchill is now sorry he spoke. Mr. Chamberlain's regret is not nearly so deep that he spoke for Mr. Churchill during his candidature for Oldham. Generosity and ingratitude have each in their own way their own reward. Paragraph 423 of His Majesty's regulations states:—"Officers and soldiers are forbidden to publish or communicate to the Press any information, without special authority, either directly or indirectly." This regulation was suspended during the occupancy of Stonecutter's Island by the Hongkong Volunteer Artillery.

Bumbledon has not yet died out in the land. At a recent meeting of the Sanitary Board a man was refused permission to place iron railings about his verandah for no other reason than that it was against an ordinance. The Medes and Persians justified the immutability of their laws by their justice. The Sanitary Board has not yet given evidence of its infallibility in the conduct of affairs for the health of the colony.

Mr. Alleyne Ireland is a curious beggar whom Fate and the "Times" placed upon horseback. He has chosen to ride roughshod over officials in this colony. Our colonial system admittedly is bad. It was conceived in ignorance, has been administered in pettiness, but the men appointed to its execution are good men, hard working, and honest. The regulations of the Colonial Office work as much to the injury of the public. What Sir William Des Vaux exerted as the "policy of keeping things quiet" is the curse of the colonial service. For that silence individual and subordinate officials are rarely responsible.

Typhoons are not of man's making, but the warnings are. There is an eccentricity about these that disturbs the equanimity of the bystander almost as much as the tearing winds do his physical equipoise. Nor are these warnings expensive luxuries. Each one costs the colony some eighteen thousands of dollars. One gazes at the ominous barrel across a smiling sea of green, and remembers the cry of "Wolf, wolf!" which irritated the villagers of a bygone age into activity. In 1900 the wolf did descend upon the colony. Unfortunately, the public, and not the alarmist, suffered in consequence. It is strange how irrational is the working of fables in real life.

Nothing is so despicable in a community as snobbery. It saps the manliness out of men. It sucks the womanliness out of women. It denies to man his God-given right to look his neighbour in the face. It generates funkyness, toadyism, and the whole ugly brood of reptilian uncharitableness in humanity. Classism is a necessity, and discipline a good; but before God man is but Man on the Peak, or Man on the Wanchai Road. He has no higher attribute than manhood. In sport all men are equal. His Excellency the Governor shoots shoulder to shoulder with the grocer and the vendor of wine. He enjoys no handicap from position. So it is that one detests the term "second class" applied to the cricket clubs within the Hongkong Cricket League. Not in the Hongkong Cricket Club, or on the Peak, or in Government House is the seat of all the virtues. There is as good cricket played each Saturday in Happy Valley as ever upon the ground of the H.K.C.C. For the greater triumph of the colony that talent should be utilised for the good of the representative team. Then, and then only, would the term "second class" be justified of its application.

It may be that the 1st Sherwood Foresters have reason to feel satisfied with the remarks made by Mr. T. Sercombe Smith in dismissing a charge against two men of the regiment, but they have every reason to feel dissatisfied with the circumstances which brought that magnificent testimonial into being. The battalion holds a record unparalleled by any of its predecessors. It has been in the colony thirteen months, having arrived here on October 8, 1902. The battalion came direct from Capetown, after three years on active service. The men had been almost five weeks on board ship at the time of their disembarkation, and were laden with money. In spite of these obstacles to strict discipline, the battalion has been responsible for only seven district courts-martial—two of these for desertion of men who sought to avoid service in North China. There have

been only three regimental courts-martial for drunkenness in this long period of thirteen months, and the greater proportion of the trials occurred in the weeks immediately succeeding arrival, before the men had had time to settle down. Despite these facts, despite the innocent bearing of the men, the drunken mauling of a tipsy sailor was considered sufficient to justify the arrest of a corporal and a private last Sunday night. Later, when charged before the Police Magistrate, it was proved that the money in their possession was of a different denomination from that they had been accused of stealing. Despite that, and despite the condition of the accused, the case was not summarily dismissed, but adjourned. Virtue may be its own reward, but it should be something more. It should be a safeguard against drunken accusations. In the present case had the accidental difference in the coins not been citable, the good record of the battalion, and the good conduct of the men, would have availed them nothing. A judge may be ignorant of the identity of Miss Connie Gilchrist, he may even be excused for a lack of knowledge of the business principles of new enterprises, but he should know the reputation of bodies of troops within his jurisdiction.

The "Norve Wremia" of August 13-August 28—contained the following paragraph:—

"The American journalist, Mr. Douglas Story, formerly editor-in-chief of 'Munsey's Magazine,' has arrived in St. Petersburg. He is travelling to Hongkong, where he will conduct an important daily newspaper, entitled the 'China Morning Post,' and a weekly journal of the same name. Mr. Story goes to Shanghai via Siberia. The other members of the staff of this, the first American newspaper in the Far East are already on their way by sea. It is Mr. Story's purpose to study conditions in Russia, and to become personally acquainted with the people of affairs here."

The "Osaka Asahi" of October 12 published a version of this innocent paragraph:—

"It is reported from Russia that a newspaper is about to be started in Hongkong with the assistance of the Russian Government, under the title of the 'China Morning Post.' The American, Mr. Douglas Story, having visited St. Petersburg for that purpose, and his purpose being fulfilled, returned via the trans-Siberian railway."

Mr. Douglas Story is not an American. The newspaper is not the "China Morning Post." These are the misapprehensions of the Russians.

The "South China Morning Post" is not started "with the assistance of the Russian Government." That is the misconception of the Japanese.

The "South China Morning Post" is an independent British journal, free from party or political control. It is the purpose of the newspaper to survey the Far Eastern situation without prejudice and without favour. In its columns Russia and Japan will receive absolutely equal treatment—a treatment dictated by the circumstances of the case.

SUNDAY JOURNALISM.

A Justification.

The "South China Weekly Post" published the following leading article in its first issue on Sunday:—It were an affectation to assume that a newspaper published on Sunday will altogether escape criticism in such a colony as Hongkong. Conventional Sabbatarianism is inbred in the British blood. It is of a part with our Protestantism and our allegiance to the crown. Men wear black clothes on Sunday for no other reason than that it is Sunday. Similarly, men eschew a Sunday journal for no other reason than that it is a Sunday journal. They forget that God may be worshipped just as sincerely in flannels as in broadcloth. They shut their eyes to the fact that a newspaper is but conversation put

into print; that it may be as wholesome, as instructive, as edifying, as any discourse about the vicarage table between services. The mills of God grind just as surely on Sunday as on Wednesday and Saturday, the world revolves as steadily, men are born and men die just as certainly as upon the week days. The newspaper has its function upon the first day of the week as upon the last.

Here in the East we have no weekly newspaper. The journals masquerading as such are but mail editions of the dailies. It is the duty of the newspaper proprietor, as it is the aim of the newspaper editor, to provide something more comprehensive, more permanent, more leisurely in its conception than the daily sheet. Such a journal if honourably conceived, judiciously constructed, and prudently controlled should earn the respect and the support of the best classes in a community.

The modern newspaper has taken the place of the old-time ambassador. The cynic has said the ambassador is sent abroad to lie for the good of his country. The newspaper is sent abroad to tell the truth for the good of humanity. Whereas the ambassador, by means of weary months of negotiation, may make or prevent a war; a newspaper, by means of a few trenchant articles, so be that they have truth behind them, will rouse a public to resent aggression, to reform abuses, to mould the policy of governments. Such is the power of the modern newspaper. Properly directed, it may effect more for the benefit of mankind, for the advancement of civilisation, for the vindication of the truth, than the pulpit or the magisterial rostrum. If a newspaper justify this power in the rush and whirl of the week day, still more will be required of it in the peace and calm of the Sabbath. Where this power is realised, and this responsibility accepted, the community has little cause to dread the appearance of a Sunday journal.

THE WEST RIVER.

A Land of Promise.

By a Suffering Resident.

WUCHOW, October 27. Five years ago the West River although its opening to foreign trade was in great measure due to the intelligent agitation of the mercantile community—was for the Hongkong resident a "terra incognita." Canton he knew of—a place beyond the Kapsimoon Pass, where globe-trotters were wont to resort to gather materials for a book on China by a visit to the execution ground and flower boats.

But the West River loomed beyond as an Ultima Thule—a bourne whence ever and again a daring traveller returned, bringing strange tales of midnight piracy, of stolen wrecks, even of murder by inebriated steamer captains. In those merry days it might well have been written above the Shuang Gorge, "Leave razors, store, clothes, all the marks of civilisation behind, with the exception of the revolver and the whisky bottle!"

But the old order changeth, giving place to new. One may now leave Canton for Wuchow almost any morning in the week on a well-appointed saloon steamer, fitted with electric light, baths, and every modern convenience. The captain no longer shoot Chinese as of yore. They write books about them instead. One passes through really admirable scenery on the grey monotony of the delta is left behind, and one arrives at Wuchow on the following day to find the crew of a British gunboat leather-hunting for the local cricket team, and the village elders playing billiards in the club!

Here you see in full swing the every-day life of a busy Chinese port. Huge boats laden with the scented produce of the Wild West coming noisily to anchor; ocean steamers of quaint construction putting out bales of cotton on one side and taking in all manner of native produce on the other, even piling high their decks with quacking ducks and chickens, while the patient cattle, all unconscious of the bones of contention they have recently provided, gaze placidly into space from the 'tween decks. Every body knows how the Chinese

authorities, doubtless to mark their appreciation of Hongkong's disinterested efforts to save the lives of thousands of famine-stricken people in Kuangsi, have done their best to interfere with the colony's food supply by stopping the export of cattle from that province.

THE BABY MARKET.

It may not be generally known, that while this summer cattle and buffaloes were not for sale, women and children were! A man might sell his children into slavery, and his women-folk into what lady novelists call "worse"; but a paternal Government, solicitous for his welfare, would on no account permit him to sell his cow! I shall never forget watching from the steamer's deck one morning a man and a woman in a sampan close by "dressing" five small, plump babies for the morning's market. As the washing and scraping, and stuffing with rice, of each mite was completed, it was tied up until the time came for the men to take it to the steamboat wharf, and, if lucky, sell it to a passerby. And, again, I shall always remember an afternoon last summer when, walking just outside the city, I met a man and a young woman, who stopped me, and, in language which I rather comprehended than understood, offered the young lady for sale, she being, his gestures clearly said—all things considered—a bargain at twenty dollars! The girl, a well-grown, pleasant-looking country wench, seemed disappointed when I refused the tempting offer. Neither of them betrayed any sense of shame at the proceeding. This girl was, doubtless, selling herself to save her family from starvation, the magistrate having forbidden them to sell their cow!—in order to protect agricultural interests.

THE PORT OF MANY COLOURS.

All day long in this busy port native craft of all shapes and sizes come and go; steam launches arrive towing passenger boats, while in and out among the shipping fit the gaudily-painted likin sampans in search of prey, what time the Customs gigs, in a more dignified manner, keep a friendly eye on the foreign steamers. At night the jaunty dories of the city betake themselves to the flower boats and gambling saloons, where, amid a blaze of lights and aroma of cooking, to the accompaniment of banging gongs and squeaking fiddles, they squander away their own, and often other people's, money.

Here and there along the river front are desirable mansions where missionaries and Customs officials rest from their labours; and somewhat inconveniently perched on an inaccessible hill top is a British Consulate, of warlike exterior and—alleged—deep political import. Some distance below the city is the foreign gunboat anchorage, where, in close proximity to the club and recreation ground, the warships of various nations keep watch and ward over the interests of their countrymen.

THIS VIVID WHITE.

Least, however, the march of civilisation in these materialistic days should altogether sweep away the old-time romance from the West River and its people, it has been ordained that the "Own Correspondent" of the Hongkong and Shanghai Press should, by their writings and latest intelligence, continue to surround with a veil of mystery the common occurrences of our every-day life.

Especially would I offer my congratulations to one Canton correspondent on his refreshingly original and entertaining communications from Kuangsi. To the Wuchow resident, jaded by the summer heat; pestered by the ubiquitous mosquito, parched with dry heat owing to the non-arrival of the ice—to such a one a perusal of the "News of the Rebellion in Kuangsi" comes as a tonic and a welcome relief from care. His pulse quickens as he reads of the taking of Nanning, the imminent destruction of Wuchow, the slaughter of thousands of Imperial troops, and the cutting off of innumerable bandits.

One does not, of course, expect slavish accuracy in the reports forwarded by correspondents, nor a timid and monotonous devotion to facts, but a certain degree of probability and a slight acquaintance with the subject in hand would, I venture to think, do little to lessen the value of their contributions.

NEW BATTLESHIPS.

The Naval Programme.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 5, 6 a.m.
The Admiralty has ordered the construction of three first-class armoured cruisers and four scouts as part of the programme voted last February.—Reuter.

WAR MEDALS.

Large Batch of Officers.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 5, 6 a.m.
His Majesty yesterday presented medals to one hundred and forty-three officers of the Transport Service who took part in the South African war and the Chinese expedition.—Reuter.

H.M.S. CENTURION.

The China Station.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 5.
H.M.S. Centurion was commissioned at Portsmouth on Tuesday for the China station.
The Centurion is a twin-screw, first-class armoured battleship, of 10,500 tons, with an indicated horsepower of 9,000. In the Naval Estimates for 1902-1903 provision was made for the strengthening of her secondary armaments and their protection.—Reuter.

THE COLLISION.

Message from the King.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 5.
The First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Selborne, has conveyed to the captain and crew of H.M.S. Prince George a message from the King, in which His Majesty expresses his appreciation of the perfect discipline maintained and splendid bravery displayed by all on board after the collision with H.M.S. Hannibal.

H.M.S. Prince George was beached at Ferrol, on the north-west corner of Spain, after the collision.—Reuter.

PEACE OR WAR?

An Official Protestation.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 4.
M. Savinsky, Count Lamsdorff's private secretary, has been interviewed in Paris.
—He declares that there is not a single nation in Europe that desires to compromise peace by pushing matters to an extremity in the Far East.

Russia and Japan are animated by the most sincere desire for a pacific settlement. To all appearance, this will not be long delayed.—Reuter.

CHINESE PROTEST.

The Mukden Coup d'Etat.

Excitement in America.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 4.
The Chinese Minister at Washington is pressing for American support against Russian aggression in Manchuria, notably at Mukden, where the Russians have seized and imprisoned Tseng Chi, the Tartar General.
This high-handed action undoubtedly is causing great irritation throughout the United States.—Reuter.

PEACE IN SIGHT.

Passing of the War Cloud.

A Better Tone.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 3.
The Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg, H.E. Hoo-Wei-Teh, has cabled to his Government at Peking to the effect that while the war party has long been in the ascendant he has reason to believe that a more peaceful sentiment is beginning to prevail in the councils of the Czar.—Reuter.

THE RAND.

S. A. Commission's Report.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, November 3.
It is understood that the Transvaal Labour Commission will report strongly in favour of the importation of Asiatic labourers.
The "Times," commenting upon this recommendation, expresses its doubt as to whether inexhaustible supplies of Chinese labour will be obtainable.—Reuter.

A NEW REBELLION.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
The Bondelszwarts tribe, in German South-West Africa, are in an active state of rebellion, and the German garrison at Warmbad is reported to be annihilated.

ADEN HINTERLAND.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
An officer and several of the Bombay Infantry have been wounded in a skirmish in the Aden hinterland. Reinforcements have been sent to the scene of the fighting.

THE PHANTOM FORT.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
Reuter's correspondent at Yokohama wires that official intelligence has been received that the Russians have dismantled the fort at Yongsampo, and withdrawn their troops, leaving only a guard of twenty police.

THE TSAR'S VISIT.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
The Kaiser has arrived at Weisbaden, where unprecedented precautions have been taken to secure the safety of the Tsar.

MINISTER WITHDRAWN.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
President Roosevelt's continued marked displeasure at the tergiversation and hostility of Colombia in relation to the Panama Canal, has ended by the withdrawal of the American Minister. Telegrams from Colon report a general state of unrest in the Isthmian States, and foreshadow startling developments pointing to the independence of the Isthmus. A Colombian gunboat, crammed with troops, has arrived at Colon, also the American gunboat Nashville.

THE SAILOR PRINCE.

THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.

LONDON, November 3.
The North German Lloyd's liner "Prinzess Alice" has passed the Canal at Suez with the Kaiser's son, Prince Adelbert, on board.

OFFICER MUTILATED.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 5.
Lieutenant Castillo has been mutilated by the Mahabon insurgents, who cut the tendons of both his legs.

REGISTRATION.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 5.
The period for the registration of Chinese has been extended for another six months. The inhabitants are protesting.

MANILA WEATHER.

A Threatening Outlook.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 5.
We are threatened with the greatest magnetic disturbance since the nineties, coincident with the appearance of the aurora in America.

On Monday the barometer was unsteady. The temperature had a maximum of 82.5. On Tuesday a minimum of 70.6.

On Wednesday the barometer fell still further over the Eastern islands. Winds were variable, the temperature had a minimum of 72.1.
The barometer to-day is falling over the whole archipelago. A depression is approaching Manila from the E.S.E. Winds are light and unsettled. The maximum temperature yesterday was 88.8. The minimum to-day is 72.2.

SMUGGLER CAUGHT.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 5.
A Chinaman who endeavoured to smuggle five hundred dollars worth of jewellery within a parcel of tea has had the goods confiscated.

A BIG BAG.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 5.
A body of constabulary scouts raided Cavite provinces on Tuesday. They captured 1,600 suspects, of whom fifteen have been identified as desperadoes.

These scouts released ex-Governor Trias.

MUTINEERS ARRESTED.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 4.
The crew mutinied on board the steamer Triglav, looted the cabins and storerooms. The mutineers have been arrested.

PIRATE'S REMORSE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
MANILA, November 4.
Herrmann, the pirate, who is lying in gaol at Cebu, is gradually recovering from his wounds. He is suffering from remorse, and bitterly wishes that he had been killed with his partners in the crime.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

The Colonial Secretary has received a telegram, dated Rangoon, November 4, 1903, from the Secretary to the Government of Burma, which states that the restrictions against arrivals from Hongkong are now removed.
His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the withdrawal of the Proclamation No. 5, dated September 7, declaring Shanghai to be a port or place at which an infectious disease prevails, and the same is now withdrawn.
By proclamation dated November 3, 1903, the Governor has ordered that Nagasaki shall be proclaimed as a port or place at which an infectious or contagious disease prevails.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

WASHINGTON, October 31.
A crank has been caught trying to approach the President of the United States, supposedly to assassinate him. He is the second one who has been arrested within the past few weeks.—"Manila Cable News."

MR. MORGAN SHUSTER.

The Collector's Record.

Mr. W. Morgan Shuster, Collector of Customs, arrived in Hongkong on Tuesday via the steamer Zafiro en route to the United States.

In the British merchant and importing community of Manila there is great dissatisfaction felt with the way Mr. Shuster has run the customs service since he began to "straighten things out" so as to make the Philippines show a good trade balance. Such absolutely reprehensible tricks as charging up duty on lamps as "jewelry" because they had electro-plate bases; making a diamond importer pay diamond-duty on the cigar box in which his stones were packed, have irritated the British and foreign importers and merchants to such an extent that some of them have given up certain lines of goods they previously did a good business in. The trade showing the islands are making under the very efficient hand and manipulation of Mr. Shuster is certainly wonderful, but the question being seriously agitated is: How much of all this is real, genuine?

A Spirited Protest.

Some weeks ago the custom house in Manila divulged secrets it had no right to give to anyone. The British merchants led the protest, and H.B.M. Consul General W. J. Kenny and ten other consuls sent a protest to the government, with the result that the culpability was discovered to rest largely with the higher officials. It is not considered likely that there will be any recrudescence of this meddling with the business of the merchants, who were extremely indignant and demanded that the matter be stopped at once.

THE FRIARLANDS.

An Evergreen Dispute.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANILA, November 4.

In spite of the alleged satisfactory settling of the friarlands question, there was filed on Saturday a series of injunction papers to prevent the city of Manila from selling at public auction certain convents and other real property of the friar corporations in the city of Manila for delinquent taxes. Among these was the archbishop's palace. These taxes had not been paid on the property by the friars, though assessed by the city assessor, the friars claiming that as church property the lands and buildings in question had no need under the law to pay any tax. The city looks at a different side of the matter and declares that the corporations must pay or lose the property. Attorneys have paid the amount of the alleged delinquent taxes under protest and have filed their suit of injunction. The city must now show cause why it compels the friars to pay. The suit will be very interesting. The law reads that any property used for religious, educational, charitable or scientific purposes shall be free from payment of or liability to any taxes unless it be used for purposes of gain. In the Dominican printing shop of the Santo Tomas cathedral, university and convent, is published the friar newspaper "Libertas," which has a regular sale price, like other papers. This is alleged to be a point in the dispute, and the city will fight the friars for every inch of ground and all the buildings. It rather looks, from the action of the municipal board, in its approval of the original protest of the friars against paying the taxes, as if the religious corporations might win.

FILIPINO PEACE.

A Troublous Colony.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANILA, November 4.

Although the Philippines government officially declared that during the year just past there was no existing revolution, your correspondent has just privately seen a document in the hands of certain of the government authorities which gives in detail a number of pueblos or towns, naming each, "which contributed to the insurrection during the year 1902." The amounts of the contributions were also roughly stated, and the facts were gathered in from the insurgents' own account books, which were captured recently. As a matter of fact, the insurrection is really not dead at all, and only a little over two weeks ago thirty constabulary fought their way out—with the loss of two men killed in four days' fighting—through the borders of over five hundred Cabañon Igorrotes in Isabela province. Other fights and raids occur almost daily in the south.

IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

A Curious Budget.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

PEKING, October 30.
It is currently reported in the Capital that the officials constituting the Board of Commerce have received their appointments through favour, such positions being, in fact, purchased through the higher officials, with little regard for the applicant's qualifications.

One of the Vice-presidents of a certain Board favours candidates from Fokien province, and another those from Kiangsu province; and it is said that the rival of the Vice-President will be more successful owing to the fact that he has been the Secretary of the Prime Minister and the drafter of the memorials of the Board.

Go-sip asks what good can such a Board accomplish?

THE DIVINE ALLY.

The Empress Dowager has been weighed down with great anxiety owing to the Manchurian troubles, and the inability of her officials to suppress the Kwangsi rebellion.

On the fifteenth day of the eighth moon she went to pray at one of the temples, and vowed that if the gods would help her in removing the causes of her anxiety she would cancel the coming grand celebrations in honour of her birthday, and spend the money saved thereby in erecting a new monastery as a thanksgiving to Buddha.

Will Buddha listen to her prayers?

THE COUNTER MOVE.

Prince Ching has been recently in converse with a certain friendly Minister regarding the situation in Manchuria, and the despatch of a special commissioner to reorganise the military forces and governments of these provinces, the said commissioner to be also empowered to deal with all diplomatic questions between China and Russia.

The matter has been discussed by the Cabinet Ministers on more than one occasion, and finally approved.

The Russian Minister getting to know of this, has been endeavouring his utmost to prevent the scheme from being carried out.

SHUN'S PERIL.

A censor has recently memorialised the Throne to the effect that Viceroy Shun Chun Hsuen has not personally investigated the cases of degraded and decapitated officials, and that the fall of certain cities into the hands of the rebels in Kwangsi has been due to his incapacity. He urges the Emperor to despatch a special official to take charge of affairs in Kwangsi in order to restore peace to that province. So far, the memorial has been shelved.

CANTON AFFAIRS.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

CANTON, November 4.

In accordance with the request of His Excellency Shun Chun Hsuen a Chamber of Commerce has recently been established at Canton for the improvement of the trade and commerce of South China.

The committee was elected on the 1st inst., and consists of representatives of the five charitable institutions and the seventy-two guilds, besides certain prominent Chinese of Hongkong.

A MAGISTRATE'S END.
News has come to hand of the death of Wong Ny Hing, Magistrate of Kwai Ping district, Kwangsi, on the seventh of the ninth moon.

It will be remembered that this was the official whom Viceroy Shun appointed to act as the custodian of the degraded and notorious Chan King Wa.

Chan managed to escape, and since then Magistrate Wong has been in despair, the Viceroy having memorialised the Throne that he be degraded and exiled.

It appears that chagrin at his sudden fall and the fear of impending punishment has caused his death.

Magistrate Wong was a personal friend of the escaped Chan King Wa, and it has been reported that he connived at his escape.

DUCAL MARRIAGE.

NEW YORK, October 31.

The date has been definitely set for the marriage of Miss May Goulet to the Duke of Roxburghe. The nuptials will take place on November 10.—"Manila Cable News."

LITTLE BIG AFFAIRS.

Life at Pakhoi.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PAKHOI, November 2.
Fao Keen Wan, the new Brigadier-General for Loong Moon, arrived here on the 16th ult. on board the Chinese gunboat "Kwong Yuen" with the gunboat "Kwong Kun" in convoy. The official left for his post the following day. I understand on board the two vessels there were armaments and war materials for the garrison in Yanchow.

Mr. F. Allshorn, Acting Harbour Master, I. M. Customs, arrived on the 12th ult. to fill the post of Tide Surveyor and Harbour Master here, which has been left vacant since the 7th of July last, by the death of Mr. H. A. McInnes.

Mr. J. C. Johnston, late Deputy Commissioner of Customs in Canton, has relieved Commissioner Edmund Farago who obtained permission of Sir Robert Hart, to resign his post. Mr. Farago is on his way home to enjoy his well-earned holiday after a long term of service in the Customs employ. Mr. Johnston assumed the post on October 24.

THE NEW POST OFFICE.

The Foundation Stone.

Much speculation has been indulged in by the residents of Hongkong as to when the building of the long promised Post Office will be commenced. The land has been cleared for some time, but that is all. It is therefore welcome intelligence to learn that H.E. the Governor is eager to lay the foundation stone before he departs from the Colony. Nothing definite has yet been decided, but every effort is being put forward to make this possible. In the event of His Excellency laying the stone in the course of the next few weeks, the contract for building will at once be placed, and operations commenced immediately. The Post Office will not be ready for occupation before three and a half years have elapsed.

THE PRAYA WEST.

The construction of the road along the Praya West grows apace. When complete it will be a great improvement to the present sea-front. Day by day the ribbon of granite road alongside the sea stretches further. At present all is disorder, and the Praya is very inconvenient for traffic; but when the coolies have broken and laid the last granite, and the contractor's huts and appliances have been removed, there will be a sea-front of which to be proud.

THE NEW TRAMWAY.

Ready for the Races.

The laying of the electric tramway line is now proceeding apace, and it is hoped that by the time of the race meeting at Happy Valley in February next that branch of the line will be in working order. The rails have been laid for a considerable distance along the Des Vaux Road. Should no unforeseen delays occur such as have hitherto deterred the promoters, it is highly probable that the ricksha will be forsaken for the tramcar at the time of Chinese New Year.

On Sunday a gang of Chinese coolies commenced operations in Des Vaux Road West. Considerable progress was made during the day, the road being taken up for the laying of the line for some distance. The Tramway Company intend to push on the work in the west, and the trams should be seen running in this direction soon after the other branch has been completed.

TRAIN WRECKED.

PUEBLO, COLORADO, Oct. 31.

The Santa Fe flyer was wrecked by masked thugs near here to-day. Thirty people were seriously injured. The miscreants who derailed the train for the purposes of robbery got little booty. Poses are now pursuing them.—"Manila Cable News."

Dr. J. H. Swan and Dr. Frank Hall Wright have entered into partnership as medical practitioners. Their new offices are situated in the Club Annexe.

SUPREME COURT.

THURSDAY.

BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN.

The Hop Wo Chan firm, of 236, Des Vaux Road, put in a petition to make a receiving order in respect of estates against the Chy Loong firm, bakers, 102, Wellington Street, and 107-9-11, Wanchai Road.

Mr. C. H. Beavis, of Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist, who appeared for the petitioning creditor, stated that the Chy Loong firm were, firstly, indebted to the Hop Wo Chan firm for \$8,804.65, being money lent and interest due. The Chy Loong firm had within four months of contracting the debt given notice to creditors that they were about to suspend payment of their debts.

His Lordship asked about the estates of the debtors.

Mr. Beavis said they had good estates, consisting of stock-in-trade, machinery, and furniture to the value of \$3,010. The total assets were \$4,790, and unsecured debts \$12,755.

Hop Wo Chan, partner in the Hop Wo Chan firm, gave corroborative evidence. He had lent the Chy Loong firm the money for business purposes. The interest was \$1.15 per month per \$100.

His Lordship granted the application.

A POINT OF LAW.

The firm of Ku Fat and Ku Fat Chum, of 76, Bonham Strand, and 128, Queen's Road Central, petitioned for a receiving order to be made against their estate that they might be adjudged bankrupt.

Mr. G. K. H. Bruton appeared for petitioners.
The petition was presented by three partners in the firm. The general manager was away, and the man acting in his stead was squandering the money, and the only way to save the assets was to make the firm bankrupt. The assets came to \$6,621 and the liabilities \$7,800.

His Lordship asked how many partners there were in the firm, and having learned that there were eleven, said that he wanted to see them all, and not two or three.

Mr. Bruton said that any two partners may present a petition in the name of the firm.

His Lordship granted this if there were only two partners in the firm. It seemed to him extraordinary that two partners from a firm of eleven partners should bankrupt them all.

Mr. Bruton said it was only necessary for two to sign such a petition. Longin, the firm's accountant, was called. He did not know how many partners there were.

His Lordship said it was an extraordinary thing for an accountant of a firm to keep the books and not know the partners. Continuing, he said the difficulty was that he was being asked to make a receiving order against the firm without the request of all the partners. He had not the sanction of the other partners. The question was: Can three partners out of eleven ask for a receiving order?

Mr. Bruce Shepherd said that the form of the petition needed altering to the effect that the firm as a whole, and not alone the three partners in court, were applying for a receiving order.

Under these circumstances, Mr. Bruton asked for an interim receiving order, to protect the estate pending the next hearing, and the altering of the form of petition.

His Lordship said these things must be done properly. These three partners were only petitioning for their own estates. To grant an interim order would be an opening to irregularities, and in future three partners might come for such an order to prevent other partners dealing as they wanted to.

Mr. Bruton said the petitioners wanted protection, not for themselves but for their creditors, who were pressing for payment.

His Lordship said that the Chinese were not people who loved their creditors like that. He believed they did not care about creditors. That was his experience of Chinese bankruptcy. In this case there was nothing to show that these three were responsible for the whole firm. He could not grant an interim order. No order was therefore made.

MOROCCO.

A Strained Situation.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, October 1.
There appears every likelihood that France will intervene in Morocco. Since the attack upon the convoy of the Governor-General of Algeria at Figuig, there have been many more skirmishes between the tribes and the French troops. In some quarters these are said to have been provoked by the colonial authorities in order to provide a pretext for crossing the frontier into the turbulent dominion of the Sultan. Once there, the example given by the occupation of Tunis would in all probability be followed, and Morocco would eventually develop into a dependency of France, bringing the whole of Northern Africa under French influence. This would, of course, create indignation in Germany, and the moment France attempted to lay her grip on Tangier, England would enter a vigorous protest, as her stronghold of Gibraltar would thus be threatened.

AN ESCAPE.

The German steamer *Tai Lee* left Swatow on October 28 bound for Sumatra, carrying 354 passengers and ballast. There was a strong N.E. wind blowing, and the barometer stood at 29.95 at 8 p.m. At night a mountainous sea was running, the wind blew with hurricane force from the north-east, and Capt. Meiklesen decided to turn back. By 10 p.m. the ship was in a cross-sea, and water was breaking over her on both sides. The heavy rolling soon caused the funnel guys to be carried away. After the guys had been swept overboard, the funnel from about 4 ft. above the bridge followed suit. The lifeboat was smashed to atoms by the waves, and considerable damage done. The main deck suffered badly, the tarpaulins being washed off, and then the hatches. Volumes of water then poured into the holds and engine room, and the ship was in a dangerous position. The proximity of land—Breaker Point—added to the anxiety of the skipper, but he tried to keep on and make for Hongkong. Owing to the quantity of water in the engine room this was found to be impossible, and the steamer was headed for Swatow, which was safely reached at 6.30 p.m. on October 28.

The *Tai Lee* transhipped her passengers at Swatow to the *Else*. The holds were pumped out, and then she proceeded to Hongkong, where she is placed in the hands of the Hongkong and Kowloon Dock Company for repairs, &c. During the heavy weather the barometer gave no indication whatever, and stood at 30.00, only falling a little when the vessel's head was directed southward. Had the *Tai Lee* been loaded there is little doubt but that she would have foundered.

NEW PACIFIC LINE.

VLADISVOSTOCK, Oct. 31.

A steamship line between this port and the United States will be started in the near future. It is said to have the backing of the Russian Government.—"Manila Cablenews."

CAPONES ISLANDS.

MANILA, October 28.

Owing to inherent defects in its mechanism, the First Order Light on Capon Grande, Capones Island, is running very irregularly, and is pending permanent repairs and alterations. Mariners are cautioned not to place too much dependence on the light.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

An ingenious system has been installed on the s.s. *Seneca* by the Standard Oil Company which provides for the immediate discovery of a fire, no matter in what part of the ship it may originate. It also provides for a hose connection to bring steam promptly to the seat of fire. This pipe system is too complicated to explain without using technicalities; but it has been most favourably reported on by the Surveyor of the American Record. It is an experiment that will be watched with interest.

FIRE IN THE HARBOUR.

At 8 a.m. yesterday a large Hongkong registered junk was observed to be on fire opposite the Harbour Office. The Harbour Master immediately chartered a launch, and the burning vessel was towed to Chang She Wan and there beached. The junk, which had arrived from Canton, had a full cargo of bamboo brooms and other Chinese merchandise. This was completely destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown. Had it not been for the smart manner in which the burning junk was towed clear of the other junks in the proximity, serious results would have happened.

ANXIETY ALLAYED.

The steamer *Sultan Van Langkat*, bound from Singapore to Shanghai, laden with kerosene oil, is overdue. A steamer belonging to Messrs. Butterfield & Swire reports passing a quantity of kerosene oil near the Paracels. It is feared that the steamer *Sultan Van Langkat* has foundered.

Later. A telegram has just been received stating the safe arrival of the steamer *Sultan Van Langkat* at Shanghai.

SHIPPING DISASTER.

N. Y. K. Liner Sunk.

Forty-four Lives Lost.

OUR EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.

LONDON, Oct. 30, 6.55 p.m.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha liner *Tokai Maru* has been sunk in collision off Hakodate.

Forty-four persons were drowned. Router.

The *Tokai Maru*, Captain S. Kubota, is a Japanese liner running between Hakodate and Aomori. Her registered tonnage is 695; 1,121 net. She has a clipper bow, flush deck, and is schooner rigged. She carried sixteen saloon, twelve second class, and one hundred and forty-two steerage passengers.

YANGTSE BOATS.

The Hunan S.S. Co. have had two new vessels built for trade and passenger service on the Yangtze. Each ship is 195 ft. in length, 38 ft. beam, 7 ft. in depth, and draws only 4 ft. of water at full load. The hulls are of steel, and the gross tonnage is nine hundred tons. The cargo capacity is two hundred tons dead weight. The ships are driven by twin-screws, and steam ten knots per hour. There is also excellent accommodation for passengers.

The O.S.S. Co.'s *Ulysses* left Singapore on November 1, a.m., and is due here to-day.

The C.M. s.s. *Ningchow* is due here on November 12 from Tacoma, via Japan.

The C.M. s.s. *Onia* left Singapore on November 2, and is due here to-morrow.

The China Navigation Co.'s s.s. *Sungking* left Manila for this port on the 3rd inst., and is expected to arrive here on the 6th inst. at daylight.

THE LOG BOOK.

The Clavering, formerly City of Dublin, of the well-known City Line, arrived from Moji on Wednesday, November 4, with 5,000 tons of coal, consigned to the China Commercial Company. Captain Barton reports heavy N.E. gale and high sea to Chupel Island, and moderate N.E. winds and fine weather to port. Passed the battleship *Glory* off Turnabout Island steaming north.

The *Doric*, Commander H. Smith, R.N.R., arrived November 5 with mails and passengers from San Francisco October 7, via Honolulu October 14, Yokohama October 27, Kobe October 28, Nagasaki October 30, and Shanghai November 2. Fine weather was experienced throughout the voyage.

The Italian mail steamer *Ischia* arrived November 5 from Bombay and Singapore with a general cargo of 2,900 tons, consigned to Messrs. Carlowitz and Co. Captain Magazzini reports having had moderate to fine weather to Singapore, thence strong north-east monsoon and rough sea to port.

Captain Davies, R.N.R., of the N.Y.K. *Bingo Maru*, reports having passed a large junk, bottom up, two hundred miles to southward and eastward of Gap Rock.

The British steamer *Pelayo*, from Langkat, arrived after a stormy passage. Captain Prynn reports a strong north-east gale and high sea from Cape Padaran. Two hundred miles south of Gap Rock several dismantled and abandoned junks were closely passed. No signs of life being visible, the steamer was not stopped. The vessel is en route for Shanghai with a cargo of case oil. The local agents are McBain and Co.

The British steamer *Yuensang* reports:—From Manila November 2, strong N.E. winds and sea, latterly moderate N.E. wind and sea.

The U.S. Navy collier *Nanshan* reports:—Beginning fresh breeze and drizzle; later part calm and clear.

Captain Kynock, well known in this port, rejoins his ship, the s.s. *Anpho*, this trip, after a spell on shore through ill-health.

One of H.M. torpedo boats returned to port yesterday after a cruise for dismantled and disabled junks. Three men were rescued in a starving condition, and landed at the Harbour Office.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

Ischia, Italian s.s., 2,754, Magazzini, Bombay Oct. 17th, Singapore 28th, General—Carlowitz & Co.

Lyemmoon, Gefman s.s., 1,238, Lehmann, Shanghai Nov. 1st, General—S. & Co.

Doric, Brit. s.s., 4,975, Smith R.N.R. Nov. 5th, San Francisco Oct. 7th, via Honolulu 14th, Yokohama 27th, Kobe 28th, Nagasaki 30th, Shanghai Nov. 2nd, Mails en General—O. & O. S. S. Co.

Progress, Ger. s.s., 687, Bremser, Quinhon October 29th, Hoihow 4th, General—S. & Co.

Elg, Norw. s.s., 708, Christopheresen, Chetoo Oct. 29th, General—J. & Co.

Michael Jensen, Ger. s.s., 710, Oldrup, Canton Nov. 4th, General—J. & Co.

Kansu, Brit. s.s., 1,142, Baddeley, Canton Nov. 4th, General—B. & S. Nanshan, U.S. Navy Collier, Teideaux Shanghai Oct. 31st. U. S. Stores.

Hopsang, Brit. s.s., 1,359, Hay, Hongay Nov. 3rd, Coal—J. M. & Co.

Oscar II, Norw. 2,000, R. Olsen, Kutchinotzu Oct. 30, Coal—M. B. K.

DEPARTURES.

Nov. 5.—*Rosetta Maru*, for Manila, Triumph, for Hoihow, Keongway, for Bangkok, Kwongsang, for Canton, Kwongtshai, for Canton, Pelago, for Shanghai, Glenogle, for Amoy, Bingo Maru, en route Japan Ports, Singapore, Parla, for Iloilo & Cebu, Undine, for Moji, Saxonia, for Choyang, for Swatow, Midzuri Maru, for Swatow, Hongkong, for Pakhoi, Denteros, for Newchwang.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

THE AMERICAN MAILS.

The T.K.K. steamer *Nippon Maru* left San Francisco for this port via Honolulu, &c., on the 15th ult.

The P.M. steamer *Siberia* left San Francisco for this port, via Honolulu, &c., on the 23rd ult.

MERCHANT STEAMERS.

The C.M. steamer *Ningchow* left Victoria (B.C.) on the 10th ult., for Hongkong via Japan ports.

The C.N. steamer *Changsha*, from Austrian ports via Manila, left Sydney on the 17th ult. and is expected here on the 8th inst.

The N.P. steamer *Olympia* left Victoria (B.C.) for Yokohama and the usual ports on the 15th ult. and may be expected here on the 16th inst.

The Boston Steamship Co.'s steamer *Tremont* left Victoria for Yokohama and the usual ports on the 26th ult., and may be expected here on the 25th inst.

STEAMERS PASSED THE CANAL.

2nd October—Hysen, Sigismund, 6th—Formosa, Flintshire, Longships, Neston, Onfa, Keeman. 9th—Bingo Maru, Sydney, Ulysses, Benmohr. 13th—Glenfarg, Mogul, Driegen. 18th—Achilles, Aragonia, Bengloe, Hudson, Stolberg, Kingraig, Sitkhonia. 20th—Kamakura Maru, Manila, Kintuck, Braemar, Prinz Heinrich, Sumatra. 23rd—Konisberg, Merionethshire, Prometheus, Denbighshire, Ajax, Nurnberg, Tainb. Maru. 27th—Armand, Behic, Danberg, Zieten.

ARRIVALS AT HOME.

30th October—Albenga, Alesia. 23rd—Heathford, Bayern, Hector, Tonkin. 27th—Indrawadi, Arabia. 29th—Candin.

VESSELS IN DOCK.

Kowloon—Lillebonne, Empress of India, Ecceles, Dr. H. J. Kier, Hailoog, Tarke, Chuen Tiao. Comptolitan—Salamanca. Aberdeen—

VESSELS LOADING.

DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	FLAG	CAPTAIN	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
London, &c., via Ports of Call	Bengal	Brit. str.	G. Philipps	P. & O.	To-morrow, at Noon.
London and Antwerp	Tantalus	Brit. str.	A. Thompson	Butterfield & Swire	10th inst.
London, via Singapore, Colombo and Malta	Shanghai	Brit. str.	—	P. & O.	About 13th inst.
London and Antwerp	Polyphemus	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	24th inst.
Liverpool	Achilles	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	12th inst.
Antwerp and Hamburg	Canada	Brit. str.	—	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	12th inst.
Marseilles, London, &c., via Singapore, &c.	Kanagawa Maru	Jap. str.	Wagner	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	12th inst., Daylight.
Marseilles, &c., via Ports of Call	Australien	Ger. str.	J. Mackenzie	Messageries Maritimes	17th inst., at 1 p.m.
Marseilles, London and Antwerp	Ningchow	Brit. str.	Vernon	Butterfield & Swire	18th inst.
Marseilles, London and Antwerp	Hyson	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	8th December.
Marseilles, London and Antwerp	Prometheus	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	22nd December.
Marseilles, London and Antwerp	Darlanus	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	5th January.
Bremen, via Ports of Call	Proussen	Ger. str.	E. Prehn	Melchers	22nd inst., at Noon.
Havre, Bremen and Hamburg	Marburg	Ger. str.	—	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	21st inst.
Havre and Hamburg	Suevia	Ger. str.	Borek	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	1st December.
Havre and Hamburg	Angolia	Ger. str.	Forst	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	15th December.
Havre and Hamburg	Nurnberg	Ger. str.	Jaburg	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	29th December.
Havre and Hamburg	Ambrisa	Ger. str.	Duckstein	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	5th January.
Trieste, &c., via Singapore, &c.	Nippon	Aus. str.	Khaaberg	Sander, Wieler	20th inst., at p.m.
New York, via Ports and Suez Canal	Seneca	Brit. str.	C.R. Beynon	Standard Oil Co.	To-day, at 4 p.m.
New York, via Suez Canal	Richmond Castle	Brit. str.	—	Dodwell	About 18th inst.
New York, via Suez Canal	Hermiston	Rus. str.	W. T. Bain	Shewan, Tomes	About 18th inst.
New York, via Suez Canal	Nubia	Ger. str.	von Hoff	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	About end of Dec.
Empress of India	Empress of India	Brit. str.	—	Canadian Pacific Railway	18th inst.
Athenian	Athenian	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	27th January.
Onfa	Onfa	Brit. str.	—	Dodwell	14th inst.
Shawmut	Shawmut	Brit. str.	W. M. Smith	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	17th inst., at 4 p.m.
Aki Maru	Aki Maru	Jap. str.	Hollingsworth	Portland & Asiatic	14th inst.
Indrapura	Indrapura	Brit. str.	W. Hunter	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	To-day, at 4 p.m.
Kakaga Maru	Kakaga Maru	Jap. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	17th inst.
Tsinar	Tsinar	Brit. str.	P. T. Helms	Gibb, Livingston	18th inst., at Noon.
Empire	Empire	Brit. str.	Thomas Pow	Siemens	Quick despatch.
Rose	Rose	Brit. str.	H. G. H. Lowell	P. & O.	To-morrow, Noon.
Manila	Manila	Brit. str.	Parkinson	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	9th inst., at Noon.
Chingwa	Chingwa	Jap. str.	M. Yagi	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	To-day, at Daylight.
Idzumi Maru	Idzumi Maru	Jap. str.	F. Davis	Butterfield & Swire	13th inst.
Bingo Maru	Bingo Maru	Ger. str.	Stohr	Hamburg-Amerika Linie	13th inst., at 5 a.m.
Kowloon	Kowloon	Jap. str.	J. W. Wale	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	20th inst., Daylight.
Tamba Maru	Tamba Maru	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	9th inst.
Kwaiyang	Kwaiyang	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	To-day.
Hungchow	Hungchow	Brit. str.	W. B. Palmer	P. & O.	About 9th inst.
Chusan	Chusan	Brit. str.	T. Ogato	Osaka Shosen Kaisha	10th inst.
Duijin Maru	Duijin Maru	Jap. str.	I. Goto	Osaka Shosen Kaisha	8th inst.
Anping Maru	Anping Maru	Jap. str.	W. S. Hunter	Nippon Yusen Kaisha	To-day, 4 p.m.
Kasuga Maru	Kasuga Maru	Brit. str.	S. J. Payne	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	To-morrow, 4 p.m.
Yuensang	Yuensang	Brit. str.	R. Rodger	Shewan, Tomes	To-morrow, 10 a.m.
Zafiro	Zafiro	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	17th inst.
Sungking	Sungking	Brit. str.	R. W. Almond	Shewan, Tomes	14th inst., 10 a.m.
Rubi	Rubi	Brit. str.	—	Butterfield & Swire	17th inst.
Tshar	Tshar	Brit. str.	—	Dodwell	About 28th inst.
Tremont	Tremont	Brit. str.	T. W. Garlick	Carlowitz	12th inst., at Noon.
Bombay, via Singapore and Penang	Ischia	Ital. str.	Geo. Payne	Jardine, Matheson	11th inst., at Noon.
Singapore, Penang and Calcutta	Namsang	Brit. str.	J. B. Fergusson	P. & O.	About 14th inst.
Singapore, Colombo and Bombay	Banar	Brit. str.	—	—	—

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

MAIL STEAMERS FOR LONDON, &c.
BENGAL... 7th November. BALLAARAT... 19th December.
MALTA... 21st November. S.M.A... 2nd January.
CHUSAN... 5th December. COROMANDEL... 16th January.
Connecting at Colombo with Homeward Mail Steamer from Australia.

STEAMERS FOR LONDON AND ANTWERP, VIA STRAITS, COLOMBO, AND SUZ CANAL.
SHANGHAI... 19th November. Passengers and Cargo.
FORMOSA... 11th December.
MANILA... 21st December.

STEAMERS TO SHANGHAI AND JAPAN.
SHANGHAI... about 15th November. Mail—Shanghai only.
MANILA... 12th November. Passengers and Cargo.
BALLAARAT... 19th November. Mail—Shanghai only.
CEYLON... 24th November. Passengers and Cargo.

CARGO STEAMERS TO THE STRAITS, COLOMBO AND BOMBAY.
BANCA... 14th November. (approximate date).

The steamship "BENGAL" carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this for Bombay on Saturday, November 7th at noon, taking Passengers and Cargo for Straits, Colombo, India and usual ports in Mediterranean and Europe, &c. Parcels will be received at this Office until 4 p.m. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required. Shippers are particularly requested to note the terms and conditions of Company's Bills of Lading. For further particulars apply to E. A. HEWETT, Superintendent.

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For Freight, apply to JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., General Managers.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LD.

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

The Company's Steamship "NAMSANG."

Captain Geo. Payne, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY, the 11th inst., at Noon.

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